

# FAVERSHAM

## Urban Sanitary Authority.

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### Report of Medical Officer of Health for Year, 1911.

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I beg to submit to the Authority my Annual Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Borough and the Health of its population during the year 1911.

The Borough of Faversham comprises the parishes of Faversham Within and Preston Within and covers an area of  $693\frac{1}{2}$  acres. Roughly speaking, it is bounded on the south by the London and Canterbury Road; on the east by Love Lane; and on the West by the Faversham Creek, and the stream that runs into its head after crossing the London Road in Ospringe. The north-eastern portion near the Creek is marsh land and thinly populated; from this the ground gradually rises towards the south and is well built upon, having a subsoil of chalk and good clay or brick-earth; in places this has been excavated and used for brick-making.

### STATISTICS OF BIRTHS & DEATHS.

Now that we have the results of the Census of 1911 to work upon, it is possible to give these in an accurate manner. In my last report I foreshadowed a possible inaccuracy in my calculations as to population for the last few years; the natural increase of births over deaths during the preceding ten years should have yielded a population of about 12,700 by this year. Instead of this the Census gives us 10,619, an actual diminution since 1901 of 615, due to the closing of most of the brickfields and consequent emigration of numerous families. This renders my calculations of birth and death rates for the last five years quite misleading, and I have on the annexed table endeavoured to show them in a form more nearly approaching correctness. Special care is now being taken to present the real as distinguished from the apparent birth and death rates by allotting all cases to their own districts as distinguished from the districts that the birth or death happens to be registered in.

The number of births registered in the Borough was 211. To these are to be added 9 others occurring outside but belonging to Faversham, making a total of 220, which gives a birth-rate of 20.6 per 1,000 of estimated population. Of these births 107 were males and 113 females; 12 of these were illegitimate children. This birth-rate is less than any during the last five years as nearly as can be calculated.

The number of deaths registered as occurring in the Borough

during the year was 139, giving a death-rate of 13 per 1,000 of estimated population apparently; but various corrections have to be applied to get the actual number that should be assigned to this district. There are 5 deaths to be deducted belonging to outside districts, viz., 4 in public institutions in the Borough and one in a private house. On the other hand we have to add on to the total 26 deaths occurring outside the Borough of people who should properly be ascribed to this district, viz., 17 in the Faversham Union Infirmary, 2 in the Borough Isolation Hospital at Kennaways, 2 in Canterbury Hospital and 5 in the Rural District, including 2 at the Cotton Powder Works.

When these corrections are made the result is a total of 160, giving a death-rate of 15 per 1,000 of estimated population. This is practically the same as in 1907, but higher than the rates for the last three years. In 1910 it was 13.4. Of these deaths 9 belonged to the parish of Preston Within.

One of the causes of the higher death-rate was the abnormal heat of the summer, which, as usual, caused a prevalence of diseases of the diarrhoeal type with an increased mortality among young children.

## INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of deaths among children under the age of twelve months was 28, of which 4 were of illegitimate children. In the previous year there were 21. These give death-rates of 127 and 83.3 respectively for every 1,000 births; this increase is due, as previously mentioned, to the prevalence of epidemic diarrhoea in the hot months of the summer. No less than 16 of the deaths were due to this cause alone as compared with 1 in 1910, so that all other causes of death show a decrease. It is sad to have to record so many deaths from this cause, as it is to a large extent preventible. The disease is taken in by the mouth in milk, in most cases from want of care in storage and from dirty teats or feeding bottles. Another source of infection is from flies, who act as carriers from case to case from their well known dirty habits. During the hot weather special attention was given to these points, especially to collections of manure and house refuse which act as the breeding places of the flies. Only one death occurred from tuberculous disease and two from respiratory diseases. No death occurred from any other zymotic disease. There were no uncertified deaths among infants.

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

				1911.	1910.
Enteric Fever	...	...		3	3
Whooping Cough		...		0	3
Diphtheria	...	...		1	0
Influenza	...	...	...	6	5
Erysipelas	...	...	...	1	0
Measles	...	...	...	0	1
Diarrhoeal Diseases		...		19	1



Phthisis & Tubercular Diseases	22	...	15
Cancer	9	...	6
Respiratory Diseases	21	...	19
Heart	11	...	20
Violent deaths	8	...	3

This table shows all the important causes of death during this year and also the previous one for the sake of comparison. The marked increase in Diarrhœa has been already noted; there are also smaller increases in Tubercular and Cancerous Diseases and a decrease in the deaths from Heart Diseases. The number of violent deaths is also much above the average.

There were 65 deaths of people of the age of 65 and upwards, as against 70 in 1910; there were 30 deaths from the Zymotic diseases (including Diarrhœa) as against 13.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The past year has been an unfavourable one from this point. The most important event was an outbreak of typhoid fever in the summer time in the low part of the town. The majority of the cases occurred in one yard and were obviously connected with each other by direct infection or were arising from one common origin. Most of the few cases occurring in other parts of the town were traced to this focus. The cases began in the heat of the summer, and were certainly spread by means of flies, even if the actual commencement of the outbreak did not come from that cause. Special efforts were made to stamp it out and were successful after a time. 21 cases were notified in all during the year, of which 3 died; one at home that was too ill for removal and two in the Isolation Hospital at Kennaways. Before the end of the year the cases ceased.

The other feature in this department was a large number of cases of scarlet fever of an extremely mild type. The very mildness of the type contributed to the difficulty in controlling it. Many cases must have been undiagnosed and unattended. Special measures were taken to detect them at the schools and three children were discovered there in an infectious state and at once removed to Hospital. Altogether 43 were notified, and as it was considered important that they should be properly isolated, the Hospital at Kennaways soon became filled, especially as some wards were in use at that same time for typhoid cases. In order to make special provision the Hospital at Luddenham was opened for temporary accommodation for Scarlet fever cases, of which 12 were removed there. Two cases had previously been sent to the Rural Isolation Hospital at Beacon Hill. This lessened the pressure and at the end of the year Kennaways Hospital was again in a position to receive cases.

Mumps also was more or less prevalent at times and caused a large amount of illness and inconvenience, but no deaths.

On the other hand we have been singularly free from Diphtheria and Whooping Cough, especially in the latter part of the year.

				Notified.		Removed to Hospital.	
				1911.	1910.	1911.	1910.
Diphtheria	...	...		8	12	5	9
Erysipelas	...	...		10	7	1	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...		43	15	33	15
Enteric Fever	...	...		21	6	19	5
Puerperal Fever	...	...		0	1	0	0
Phthisis	...	...		13	—	9	—
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				95	41	67	30

In comparing the two years please note that this is the first year that Phthisis cases have been included.

Of the 33 Scarlet fever cases removed to Hospital 19 were removed to Kennaways, 12 to Luddenham, and 2 to Beacon Hill.

Of the total number of cases notified 4 were from the Parish of Preston Within. Five deaths occurred, three from typhoid fever, one from diphtheria and one from erysipelas. As usual influenza was noted during part of the year and was responsible for six deaths, besides complicating other cases of serious illness.

The Isolation Hospital at Kennaways has been in use throughout the year and I have referred to the cases removed there. This is the second occasion on which it has been found necessary to supplement its accommodation within a few years, and I should recommend the authority seriously to take into consideration the advisability of enlarging it and so being in a better position to deal with exceptional occasions. There are only four wards there, and therefore, allowing for separation of the sexes, only two diseases can be dealt with there at the same time, whereas we have to provide against at least three different diseases.

The Hospital at Luddenham has been continually in readiness and, as already stated, was made use of temporarily at the end of the year. Fortunately, it had just been painted and put in order, as I requested in my last report. It is fortunate that we have had no cases of Small Pox during the year.

In the early part of the year, as allowed by the Local Government Board, the Authority issued a supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin for the use of Medical Practitioners in urgent and necessitous cases and have made arrangements for a continuation of the supply through their Medical Officer. This is a very great advance as in these cases time is of great importance.

Another important step taken during the year is the opening of the County Bacteriological Laboratory at Maidstone for the Investigation and Report of doubtful cases. All medical men are supplied with outfits, by means of which specimens may be collected and forwarded at once for examination and a report is sent back with the least possible delay. In numerous doubtful cases this is very useful indeed from a public health point of view, tending to prevent doubtful cases remaining at home when they



should be isolated in Hospital and vice versa.

In every case of infectious disease notified to me inquiries are made into all the surrounding circumstances and all necessary instructions given as to isolation and prevention of further cases. Disinfection is carried out after removal to hospital, or on the recovery or death of the patient if nursed at home; these same measures are also extended to cases of phthisis.

During the time when scarlet fever was prevalent I reported two cases of children being exposed in the streets while in an infectious condition. After full consideration the Authority decided not to prosecute, but letters were written to the parents pointing out their position, and warning notices were printed and circulated to remind the public of their legal responsibilities in this matter.

## PHTHISIS.

During the year 5 notifications (referring to 3 cases) were sent to me under the Tuberculosis Regulations, 1908; also 10 notifications (referring to 9 cases) were received under the Tuberculosis in Hospitals Regulations, 1911. Another notification was also received from the Military Authorities. In all these cases the patients and premises were visited and full instructions given.

The Hospital Notifications were those of cases sent away to institutions for treatment, as the Authority have no Sanatorium and have made no arrangements for the treatment of these cases. At the end of the year cases of Phthisis became compulsorily notifiable throughout the district.

## WATER SUPPLY.

The Public Water supply of the Borough is derived from deep wells in the chalk; these are situated to the south of the town, outside the Borough, and at a higher level. The situation appears to be one free from risk of any contamination. The quantity and quality of the supply has been good throughout the year; two analyses have been made of it and a favourable report has been obtained each time, except that the degree of hardness is high.

Two other samples of drinking water were taken from different wells in the Borough during the year; one sample proved to be quite satisfactory, but the other was reported as polluted by sewage or organic matter. This well was closed.

## MILK.

There are 27 premises in the Borough which are more or less used in the sale or storage of milk; these include Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops. In many of the latter milk is never stored but received twice daily, and retailed over the counter, in conjunction with many varieties of other articles.

All these places have been regularly inspected and the Bye

Laws enforced. The conditions under which milk is stored are good in all instances. The Cowsheds as a whole are kept in a cleanly manner and more attention paid to ventilation than hitherto.

Seven samples of milk have been purchased and sent for analysis during the year. Of these five were certified as being genuine. The other two were deficient in fat, but not to an extent sufficient to warrant a prosecution; the vendors, however, were cautioned.

No other samples of Food or Drugs have been taken for analysis throughout the year.

## SLAUGHTER HOUSES & BAKEHOUSES.

There are 9 registered Slaughterhouses and 24 Bakehouses in the Borough. No fresh premises have been registered for these purposes; only one of the Bakehouses is underground and that is kept in a satisfactory condition.

All these places have been regularly inspected and have been fairly well kept up to the standard. It has been found necessary in 10 cases to send notices for remedying of minor defects and for cleansing, whitewashing, etc. In many cases similar defects have been remedied on verbal direction without waiting for a formal notice.

No tuberculous carcasses have been found, and no seizures of food unfit for human consumption have taken place.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

We have two in the Borough; one a Fellmonger and one a Fat-melter. We have no bye-laws for their regulation; but I am glad to say that the former gives rise to no nuisance and the management of the latter is much improved since my last report and the effluvia not so obnoxious as formerly.

There are five premises on which fish-frying is regularly carried out; these are cleanly and well conducted and are not a source of offence.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are 5 houses licensed as Common Lodging Houses, 3 being on licensed premises. This is an increase of one on last year.

No case of Infectious Disease has been notified from any of these houses. One lodger was removed to Hospital suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and his room was afterwards disinfected. These houses have all been frequently inspected and found to be clean and in good condition. Good provision is made for ventilation but it is not always used to the extent that it ought to be.

## HOUSE-TO-HOUSE INSPECTION.

The regular inspection under the Housing Regulations Act of 1910 has been proceeded with during the year throughout certain districts selected by me, with the following results :

No. of houses inspected	...	...	...	200
No. of houses unfit for human habitation	...			1
This house voluntarily closed by owner	...			1
No. of houses where defects were found	...			43
No. of defects remedied	...	...	...	39
Do.	to be attended to	...	...	4

The defects found varied much in character from defective drains and roofs to want of cleanliness and ventilation. These are to be found in detail in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

An Official Record of this work has been kept and produced each month for the inspection and perusal of the Health Committee.

## FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS.

The following inspections have been made during the year under their special Acts.

	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories	... 39	... 1	... 0
Workshops	... 346	... 9	... 0
Workplaces	... 5	... 0	... 0
Totals -	<u>390</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>

The total number of places liable under this Act for inspection is 132.

The occupations carried on in them may be classified as follows :—

Dressmaking.	Basket-making
Millinery.	Cabinet do.
Tailoring.	Umbrella do.
Bakehouses.	Harness do.
Breweries.	Boot do.
Printers.	Sail do.
Wheelwrights.	Rag sorting.
Saddlers.	Wool do.
Cycle repairers.	Monumental Masons.
Carpenters and Builders.	Coach builders.
etc.	etc.

In one case there was a failure to affix the Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act.

One case requiring action was referred to us by H.M. Inspector



of Factories.

One case was referred by me to H.M. Inspector.

There were twelve defects found and all were remedied without prosecution being required. 3 of these were cases of unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation, 4 were for want of cleanliness, and 4 for choked and defective drains.

There is not much outwork done in the district, and it is all comprised under the making and repairing of wearing apparel. 8 lists of outworkers have been received. These houses have all been inspected, and no case of infectious disease has occurred in any of them.

## SEWERAGE.

The Sewage Scheme mentioned in my last Report is now in active process of installation, the Pumping Station has been built and Pumping Machinery installed, but at the close of the year it was not ready for use. The relaying of the Sewers is practically completed; in many streets entirely new sewers have been laid down; in others the old sewers have only been partially altered. In some cases the levels have had to be altered to attain the object of the work, i.e., to close all the sewer outlets into the Creek, and to deliver the whole of the Sewage of the district into the Sewage Works for treatment. This has involved a large amount of excavation of the streets and opening up of old sewers, which has hindered traffic and left the streets in poor condition; until the work was completed this was unavoidable.

The Sewers are well ventilated by shafts in the best positions for giving escape to any accumulation of gas and no nuisance is found to arise from them.

The closet system is, in the great majority of cases, the fresh water closet system connected with the sewers. In many cases flushing cisterns are provided, but very many depend on hand-flushing for cleanliness.

Number of Houses in Borough ... ..	2,837
„ „ Fresh Water Closets ... ..	2,432
„ „ Privies (moveable receptacles) ... ..	22
„ „ „ (fixed „) ... ..	6
Conversions from privies to water closets	None

The street scavenging and watering are done by the Authority themselves under the direction of the Surveyor. The results are very satisfactory.

## SCHOOLS.

There are three Public Elementary Schools in the Borough. Two of these comprise Boys,' Girls,' and Infants' Departments; the third only has Girls and Infants. It has not been found necessary during the past year to close any of these departments



on account of the spread of Infectious Disease, but on three occasions class-rooms have been specially disinfected when cases of fever have been discovered actually attending School in an infectious condition, and on one of these occasions a number of school books, etc., were also destroyed.

The Schools are all supplied with water from the main town supply, and are in good sanitary condition. During holidays special cleansing and disinfection have been carried out.

Medical Inspection of the School children has been carried on regularly during the year. This was applied to all children entering and leaving the Schools. On 58 afternoons I attended at the Schools and medically examined in all 573 children. These were all reported on and entered in the necessary registers and cards. Of these 113 were found to be suffering from defects sufficiently serious to require immediate medical or dental treatment; while many more suffered from minor or less urgent troubles.

The most common defects were errors of refraction, decayed teeth, enlarged tonsils and adenoids. Every effort was made to impress upon parents the need of remedying these, and in many cases this is done, but there are many more that do not receive any of the necessary treatment on account of either the poverty or the indifference of the parents.

Special regulations have been drawn up by the Education Committee for excluding from School and subsequent visiting of children suspected to be suffering from anything infectious and for visiting and reporting upon those children who are away from School for slight ailments in case these should prove of an infectious nature. Many cases have been investigated by me under these arrangements and I feel they have been of assistance in looking up those slight cases of infectious disease that are so easily overlooked, but so quick to spread infection.

## INSPECTION.

During the year I have made two systematic inspections of the whole district, besides the necessary visits at various times to premises as special occasion may arise to do so:—

Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	174
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops	...	...	...	39
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	19
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	11
Stables, Mews, etc.	...	...	...	21
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	30
Total				294

The vital statistics of the Borough are given in the usual tables which are appended to this report. They have been referred to and made use of throughout and give fuller details in some respects than can be put in the body of the report; much of the work is also given in fuller form in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

I beg to remain,

CHARLES J. EVERS, M.D.,

*March 12th, 1912.*

*Medical Officer of Health.*



# Borough of Faversham.

## Report of Inspector of Nuisances for Year ending 31st December, 1911.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Faversham :

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you a Report of the work carried out in your Health Department during the past year.

### SUMMARY OF WORK.

Premises inspected and reinspected ... ..	2187
House to House inspections ... ..	200
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops inspections	68
Slaughterhouses inspections ... ..	281
Factories and Workshops inspections ... ..	390
Outworkers premises ... ..	22
Miscellaneous ... ..	39
Complaints received ... ..	27
Letters and Notices issued ... ..	185
Statutory Notices issued ... ..	1
Rooms Disinfected ... ..	83

### Particulars of Work carried out in the abatement of Nuisances :

New Drains laid ... ..	7
Drains repaired ... ..	19
Drains unstopped ... ..	14
New trapped gullies provided ... ..	9
New closet pans provided ... ..	12
Closet pans cleansed ... ..	33
Sink wastes repaired ... ..	4
Flushing cisterns provided ... ..	5
Gutters and downpipes repaired and cleansed	26
Defective roofs repaired ... ..	23
Damp and defective house walls repaired ...	17
Windows made to open ... ..	9
House floors relaid ... ..	3
Badly paved yards repaired ... ..	3
Ash receptacles provided ... ..	12
Nuisances from animals abated ... ..	4
Accumulations of offensive matter ... ..	31

Under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, 200 houses have been inspected, and full particulars in respect to such inspections have been entered in the Official Record as prescribed by the Regulations.

One house was represented as unfit for human habitation and was visited by the Health Committee. The house was closed voluntarily by the owner.

Out of the 200 houses inspected, 43 were found to have defects. At 39 of these houses the defects have been remedied. The following is a short summary of the improvements carried out.

Drains relaid	...	...	...	...	4
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Choked drains unstopped	...	...	...	...	8
Defective roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	12
Defective eaves and gutters repaired	...	...	...	...	19
New closet pans provided	...	...	...	...	4
Damp house-walls repaired	...	...	...	...	11
Windows made to open	...	...	...	...	3
Flushing cisterns provided	...	...	...	...	2
Dirty premises cleansed	...	...	...	...	16
Sink wastes repaired	...	...	...	...	3
House Floors relaid	...	...	...	...	1

## FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS.

During the year the whole of the Registered premises, including Factories, Workshops and Outworkers premises, have been inspected by the Medical Officer of Health and myself.

The following are particulars of the defects remedied:—

Defective drains	...	...	...	...	1
„ waterclosets	...	...	...	...	3
Choked drains	...	...	...	...	3
Workshops to cleanse	...	...	...	...	2
Walls to repair	...	...	...	...	1
To limewash	...	...	...	...	1
Absence of Abstract	...	...	...	...	1

One complaint was received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, calling attention to one bakehouse which required whitewashing. A notice was sent, and the work was carried out.

Outworkers Lists were returned twice during the year.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are two Offensive Trades carried on within the Borough, viz., one Fellmonger, and one Fatmelter. These premises have been visited from time to time, and have been found to be kept satisfactorily.

## DAIRIES, COWSHEDS & MILKSHOPS.

There are 27 persons on the Register. The whole of the premises have been visited from time to time, more especially the small general shops, where milk is stored in small quantities and retailed along with other goods.



As a rule the precautions issued with regard to the storage of such milk, have been fairly well carried out, and only in a few instances was it found necessary to caution vendors for neglect to keep the milk properly covered.

The Cowsheds have been inspected and the cleanliness of the premises, cattle and dairy utensils, have been fairly well maintained.

## SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are at present 9 Registered Slaughterhouses in use within the Borough. These have been frequently inspected. Notices, which were complied with, were sent for the abatement of the following nuisances:—

Accumulations of offal	...	...	...	...	5
Stopped drains	...	...	...	...	2
Defective floors	...	...	...	...	1
Premises requiring cleansing	...	...	...	...	1
Water closet requiring cleansing	...	...	...	...	1

Generally speaking, the slaughterhouses have been fairly well kept during the year.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

The Common Lodging Houses have been regularly inspected and have been found to be kept in a satisfactory manner. During the year, the premises known as Elephant and Castle, Water Lane, have been registered as a Common Lodging House. The following is a list of the Registered houses, with the number of lodgers each house is authorised to receive:

Friendship Inn, Tanner Street	...	6	adult lodgers.
Holly Bush Inn, Tanner Street	...	35	„ „
Bull Inn, Tanner Street	...	34	„ „
Queen of Hearts, Conduit Street	...	15	„ „
Elephant and Castle, Water Lane	...	42	„ „

There have been no cases of Infectious Disease notified from these houses, but at one house one bedroom was disinfected after the removal to Hospital of one of the lodgers who was suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

## HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

These are houses in which certain rooms are let in short tenancies. Such rooms are generally provided with a bed, table and two chairs, and are used for living and sleeping.

One house, 24, North Lane, is used for this purpose, and frequent inspections have been made. The house has been kept clean and in fairly good order.

## COMPLAINTS.

Twenty-seven complaints have been received from the Public during the year. These have been promptly investigated, and the necessary steps taken for the abatement of nuisances found to exist.

## FOOD & DRUGS.

During the year seven samples of milk have been purchased and submitted to the County Analyst for analysis. Five of these samples were certified to be genuine, and two were found to be slightly deficient in fat. The vendor in both cases was cautioned.

## WATER SAMPLES.

Four samples of drinking water have been obtained and submitted for analysis. Two of these were taken from the Public Water Supply, and were certified as organically pure and free from sewage percolation.

The other samples were taken from wells in the Borough, and one on analysis was found to be polluted. In this case the well was closed. One sample proved to be quite satisfactory.

## DISINFECTION.

During the year 83 rooms have been disinfected after the removal or recovery of persons suffering from Infectious Diseases, including 11 rooms disinfected after the death or removal to Hospitals of persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Class-rooms at the Council Schools Infants Department, have been disinfected during the year.

In concluding my Report, I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support, and the Medical Officer of Health for his help and advice in carrying out my duties during the past year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES BOLTON.





